

APPENDIX 1

NATIONAL HISTORIC ENGINEERING LANDMARK

Nomination Form

To: National Engineering Heritage Panel,  
Institution of Engineers, Australia,  
11 National Circuit,  
BARTON. A.C.T. 2600

Date: 14th September, 1988.

From: L.G. Rawlings,  
Chairman  
Northern Group  
Newcastle Division

This is to nominate the following work for designation as a National Historic Engineering Landmark:

Name of Proposed Landmark: STREETLIGHTING PLANT

Located at: TAMWORTH. N.S.W.

Address: 216 PEEL STREET, TAMWORTH. N.S.W. 2340

The Work is owned by: PEEL-CUNNINGHAM COUNTY COUNCIL,  
P.O. BOX 581, TAMWORTH. N.S.W. 2340

In support of this nomination the following information is provided:

1. Date of construction:

9TH NOVEMBER, 1888.

2. Name of key professional personnel association with the Landmark:

GEORGE HARRISON and ALFRED HERBET WHIFFEN

3. National engineering historic significance of the Landmark:

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ELECTRIC STREETLIGHTING POWERSTATION

4. Comparable or similar Works (a) In Australia. (b) Overseas.

(a) NIL

(b) GODALMING, SURREY. U.K. - 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1881.

5. Unique features or characteristics which set this proposed Landmark apart from other engineering Works, including those in 4 above:-

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE "FIRST" (In Australia)

6. Contribution which this Work has made towards the development of:  
(1) the engineering profession and/or (2) the nation:

- (1) TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S FIRST ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, MR. ORLANDO, W. BRAIN (APPOINTED 12TH NOVEMBER, 1889) LATER BECAME CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER OF THE N.S.W. DEPARTMENT OF TRAMWAYS AND RAILWAYS. HIS SON, VIVIAN J.F. BRAIN BECAME CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER OF THE N.S.W. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND LATER CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY OF N.S.W. V.J.F. BRAIN WAS THE "ARCHITECT" OF THE FORMATION OF THE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF N.S.W. AND WAS VICE-CHAIRMAN UPON ITS FORMATION IN 1950.
- (2) PUBLIC ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN AUSTRALIA, INITIALLY BY MUNICIPAL COUNCILS FOLLOWED THE LEAD GIVEN BY THE TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL IN 1888.

7. In further support of this nomination the following documentation is submitted: (please list all enclosed documents, photographs, and supporting Historical evidence).

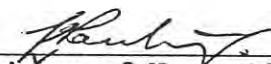
SEE PAGE 3 ATTACHED


8. For completing by Committee or body (other than a Division) making the submission. A copy of this Submission has been forwarded to the Secretary of the NEWCASTLE Division at NEWCASTLE.

We have discussed this nomination with the owner of the Work. The owner has indicated that THEY ARE MOST AGREEABLE AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE INSTITUTION.

(include statement regarding owner's attitude).

If this nomination is approved for designation as a National Historic Engineering Landmark by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, we understand that the Division or Committee will be expected to take a major responsibility in the development of a suitable presentation event at which the national plaque would be publicly presented.

  
Chairman of Nominating Body

  
Secretary of Nominating Body

This form may be reproduced either by electrostatic copying or by retyping. If possible, please submit eight (8) copies of all materials relating to the nomination. If more space is required to provide full response to any of the above, please attach additional pages.

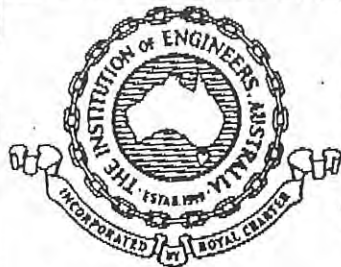
NOTE: With enclosed additional documentation please also include 200 x 250 mm black and white photographs which depict the work and can be used for publicity purposes. Also requested are 35 mm colour slides which can be used for a slide presentation.

Note: Photographs of the installation will be unavailable until after the reconstruction to be completed by 9th November, 1988, however we enclose photographs of the restored engines.

**7. In further support of this nomination the following documentation is submitted:**

- (1) Copy of Page 10 FIFTY YEARS OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY  
by Gordon F. Anderson (the Sydney County Council).
- (2) Copy of the Grant of Land including Allotment 11, Section 17 to the Borough Council.
- (3) Copy of Page 533 of the Tamworth Borough Council Clerk's copy book for the year 1888, stating that the land for the engine house in connection with the electric light is Allotment No. 11, Section 17.
- (4) Copy of Page 8 of the Sydney Morning Herald of 9th November, 1888.
- (5) Copy of Page 12 of the Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday, 10th November, 1888, carrying the story of the Lighting of Tamworth by Electricity.
- (6) Copy of Northern Group Chairman's letter of proposal to Owner setting out details of proposed plaque.
- (7) Copy of Owner's letter of acceptance of the plaque and Institution's proposal.
- (8) Photographs.

FIRST DRAFT



## HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

### TAMWORTH STREET-LIGHTING PLANT

ON 9 NOVEMBER 1888 THE TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL INAUGURATED AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTING PLANT ON THIS SITE. TWO 12 HORSEPOWER STEAM ENGINES DRIVING CROMPTON 230 VOLT 18 KW DYNAMOS SUPPLIED ELECTRICITY TO 52 STREET LIGHTS WITH CARBON FILAMENT LAMPS AND 7 ARC LIGHTS. THE SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED AND INITIALLY OPERATED BY SYDNEY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS HARRISON AND WHIFFEN, AGENTS FOR R. E. CROMPTON & CO. OF ENGLAND. ITS SUCCESS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN AUSTRALIA.

DEDICATED BY  
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA, 1988.

## LIGHTING OF TAMWORTH BY ELECTRICITY

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[By Telegraph]

[From Our Reporter]

TAMWORTH. Thursday.

Tomorrow will be a great day in Tamworth. It will mark a new phase in the history of the thriving township - Gas is to give place to electricity for street-lighting purposes. So far all is expectancy. The only tangible feature in connection with the installation of the new light is a banquet given in the Olympic Hall, this evening. The Mayor (Mr. J. Piper) presided, and there were about 60 guests. Letters of apology for inability to attend were received from the Governor, Mr. Henry Parkes, Messrs. Sutherland, Inglis and Burns, the Attorney-General, Commissioner for Railways, and Mr. B. Levien, M.L.A. The proceedings demonstrated the unity of those present to advance the interests of the new light. All the speakers were sanguine as to the success of the undertaking. Mr. Dowel, M.L.A., warmly congratulated the Mayor on the fact that Tamworth is the first borough in the colony which has adopted the electric light for street-lighting purposes. The contractors for the supply of light, Messrs Harrison & Whiffen, alluded in terms of high praise to the result of their work. The electric light is used to illuminate the hall in which the banquet was held. The experiment was a pronounced success for internal lighting. Tomorrow the town will be lighted by electricity. Sports will be held in honour of the event on the Oval Ground, which will be illuminated by electricity.